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of control to misappropriation of thousands of rubles. Dnepropetrovsk organizations took no action to stop the mischief, and the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry had no knowledge of it. Korobov, at a plenum of the Dnepropetrovsk City Party Committee, promised to eradicate the deficiencies. But the plant failed to improve, and by the end of 1949, had failed to produce thousands of tons of metal. At a Party conference in Leninskiy Rayon, Dnepropetrovsk City, the director once more promised that in 1950 the plant would meet its plan, and at subsequent Party conferences in the city and oblast these promises were repeated, but never followed up by action.

Korobov, Minister of the Metallurgical Industry USSR, with a large group of ministry and main administration workers, visited the plant in April 1950. By that time, the lag at the plant had greatly increased. Korobov once more pledged that the situation could be corrected. In the few days following the minister's visit, several shops improved somewhat, but after that, fell behind and relaxed their pace. The only exception is open hearth shop No 3, directed by Soran, which is taking steps to produce 4,000 tons of steel above plan for 1950, including 1,000 tons from saved fuel, raw materials, etc. The situation is quite different in open-hearth shop No 1, whose director, Novikov, has been making statements against the plan, which he calls unrealistic. This shop is lagging because of the tremendous losses from worker carelessness. The shop's workers seem to have become accustomed to administrative penalties and no longer pay any attention to them.

The plant's administration has taken no action on Stakhanovite workers' proposals for improvement. There have been proposals from workers in the third open-hearth shop to convert to the use of a mobile casting pig for tapping steel, to install an additional compressor in the shop, and to tap the pig iron from the blast furnace for the open-hearth furnaces three times per shift instead of twice. Despite the ease with which such improvements could be adopted, Stakhanovite advice has not been taken.

The lack of molten pig iron often delays the completion of the steel melts, so that the high-speed workers in shop No 3 on certain days do not obtain even one-third of the required pig iron, delaying melts as much as 2 hours. The shift is tapping the pig iron three times per shift would solve the problem, but the directors will not take this step.

Collective agreements for socialist competitions are concluded only once in an entire quarter instead of every few weeks or every month. In the blast-furnace shop, the volume of pig iron produced in the three shifts is divided into three equal parts, so that the indexes for the three brigades are always the same and the competitive feeling is lost.

Inspection tours have been made by leading figures in the metallurgical industry, including Bychkov, chief of the Main Administration of Metallurgical Industry of the South and Center, Yefanov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Trade Union of Metallurgical Industry Workers, and other responsible personnel of the central committee of the trade union, the main administration, and the ministry. Kuz'min has made two visits with nearly 40 workers who studied the cause for the plant's lag for several days. But these inspections concerned only the work of the Bessemer and rail shops. The rail shop's work is still extremely poor, despite the fact that a brigade from the ministry has been studying its operations for a long time. Plant administrative personnel seem to expect the ministry to solve problems already solved by Stakhanovite workers. The steelworkers in open-hearth shop No 3 have been trying for 2 years without success to get a 175-ton crane, making it possible for them to use larger capacity ladles. The Dnepropetrovsk Office of "Glavvostormet" delivers ungraded and unsorted scrap to the plant. The main administration is planning to introduce production of many new profiles in the rolling shops. None of these problems has as yet been worked out. (3)

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The plant's open-hearth shop No 3 has taken the lead in increasing production above plan. A leading brigade had pledged in 1950 to obtain an average of 6.5 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the norm of 5.6 tons. Since making the pledge, the brigade has been producing 7.5 tons on the average, so the pledge has been revised upward to 8 tons per square meter as the year's average.(4)

A leading steelworker at open-hearth shop No 1, Dneprodzerzhinsk Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy, recently completed a melt in 4 hours 35 minutes, beating the schedule by better than 2 hours. In the next shift, his coworker completed a melt in 4 hours 30 minutes and produced 8.51 tons of steel per square meter of hearth, almost double the progressive norm, and saved 8 tons of mazut.(5) Another leading steelworker, in competition with the high-speed steel smelters at the Moscow "Serp i molot" Plant, has pledged by the end of the year to save 350 tons of mazut and 9 tons of ferroalloys, to produce one additional trainload of metal above plan (in all, two trainloads above plan), and to increase the furnace run between repairs to 500 melts as the year average. By the end of the year, workers at this one furnace hope to save sufficient mazut for 11 additional melts and sufficient ferromanganese and ferrosilicon for 60 additional melts.(6)

The use of chromomagnesite brick for open-hearth furnace roofs has had outstanding results at the Plant imeni Dzerzhinskiy. One furnace, converted from a Dusa brick roof, was operated for 437 melts between repairs and fuel savings amounted to 12 percent, while the time spent in each melt sharply decreased. The plant's management has continued to convert other furnaces to the new type of roof. One of the best steelworkers recently has been producing 11 tons of steel per square meter of hearth.

Certain difficulties in supply, however, have been hampering the plant's operations. Brick is produced directly at the plant, but the chromomagnesite division of the refractories shop is not adequately equipped with heavy-duty presses. The raw material obtained from the Sorany deposit in the Urals has a high percent of calcite and a low chrome content. There is entirely too much limestone in the magnesite powder, also imported from the Urals. All these factors have hindered the production of high-quality chromomagnesite brick. The raw material supply enterprises must improve the quality of their products. The Leningrad Institute of Refractories was scheduled to develop a plan for reconstruction of the refractories shop and the chromomagnesite division, but after 6 months, no plan is yet in evidence. The Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry should give active aid to plants in furthering the use of the chromomagnesite roof.(7)

The plant's blast furnaces No 7 and 8 are being operated at high temperatures with excellent results. Every sixth ton of pig iron produced is above plan. For the first time, a coefficient of 0.76 for the entire shop has been achieved as compared with the progressive norm of 0.83.(8) A brigade at furnace No 1 achieved a coefficient of 0.45 as compared with the progressive norm of 0.61.(9)

The Metallurgical Plant imeni Lenin, Dnepropetrovsk Oblast, is saving metal by rolling pipe according to the so-called "minus allowances," that is, the pipe will be rolled in strict accordance with each order. Previously, the walls of the pipe produced by the shop exceeded orders by $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 millimeters in thickness. In one month under the new system, the shop has produced nearly 3 additional kilometers of pipe from saved metal. At the same time, idleness of equipment was reduced $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent more than planned, output of high-grade pipe increased one percent, and production costs decreased almost 9 percent.(10)

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A rolling-mill worker at the pipe shop of the Dnepropetrovsk Plant imeni K. Libknekht has improved the pipe-rolling process. Usually, the process of changing the mandrel, placing the tube in the mill, and removing the pipe takes 2 minutes 12 seconds. The worker and his brigade decreased the time to 1½ minutes, fulfilling the norm 153.1 percent. The usual width of the pipe wall is 8 millimeters, but specifications permit deviations up to one millimeter. Since the thinner walled pipe takes less metal, the brigade has pledged to roll pipe without the allowed deviations. Since the beginning of the month, the brigade has saved 25 tons of metal by closely observing the relationship between the heating of the metal and the speed of movement of the rollers. (11)

The Bessemer shop of the Yenakiyev Metallurgical Plant in Stalino Oblast has for a long time been using the new technology for smelting steel. In 15 days of May, it produced above plan thousands of tons of high-grade steel for rails. The shop also saved 330,000 rubles above plan in April. The plant's rail-rolling shop is also going full speed. (12)

At the same time, however, the plant has had complaints of defective production. The Lvov subsection of the Moscow-Kiev Railroad System received rails from the plant. A batch of these rails, classed as No 1 rails at the plant by the inspector of the Ministry of Transportation and the head of the plant's department of technical control, was laid on new ballast on new ties. Five of the rails quickly broke in the middle of the rail sections, and later, two more broke. A commission sent to investigate the case stated that the rails had been rolled from brittle metal. However, the chief engineer at the Yenakiyev Plant refused to admit any claim against the plant, and the claim of 3,852 rubles for faulty rails was not paid. (12)

Steelworkers at the large tilting open-hearth furnace No 4 of the "Azovstal'" Plant recently completed a heavyweight melt in 3 hours ahead of schedule and obtained 12 tons of steel per square meter of hearth as compared with the progressive norm of 8.33 tons. (13).

SOURCES

1. Pravda, No 156, 5 Jun 50
2. Izvestiya, No 127, 30 May 50
3. Trud, No 125, 27 May 50
4. Trud, No 120, 21 May 50
5. Pravda Ukrainy, No 120, 23 May 50
6. Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 119, 20 May 50
7. Izvestiya, No 123, 25 May 50
8. Leningradskaya Pravda, No 126, 30 May 50
9. Pravda Ukrainy, No 129, 2 Jun 50
10. Pravda Ukrainy, No 122, 25 May 50
11. Trud, No 122, 24 May 50
12. Gudok, No 60, 19 May 50
13. Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 98, 19 May 50

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